

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 1996
TAG REVIEW DATE: 6 MAY 1997

1. SITE NAME: Luke Air Force Range/D/

SITE NUMBER: J09AZ047000

LOCATION:

City: Yuma
County: Yuma, Pima, & Maricopa
State: Arizona

PROJECT NUMBER: J09AZ047001

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 5

2. POC's:

GEO DISTRICT POC:

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SUPPORT DIST (ASR) POC:

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ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

a. Luke Air Force Range/D/ is located in southwestern, Arizona, just north of the U.S. - Mexican border and encompasses portions of Yuma, Pima and Maricopa Counties. Land acquisition and release occurred frequently during the past 50-plus years, resulting in the release of approximately 127,123 acres of

range, which constitutes the subject properties determined to be eligible for the DERP-FUDS program. The released areas were primarily a buffer zone for the range. Prior to the acquisition by the DoD, the site consisted of vacant desert, agricultural land, and some residential usage. The current site ownership is divided between private individuals, the State of Arizona and the Department of the Interior. The site remains mainly vacant desert land, interspersed mountain ranges and, except for the agricultural activities on irrigated private ownership's, is not in revenue producing use. There continues to be agriculture use on certain tracts, and some residences remain scattered throughout the site.

4. SITE HISTORY:

a. Certain tracts of the Luke Air Force Range were originally called the Yuma Aerial Gunnery Range. Established on 5 September 1941, the Yuma Aerial Gunnery Range extended from five miles east of Yuma Army Air Field to the western boundary of the Ajo-Gila Bend Gunnery Range. The Southern Pacific Railroad formed the northern boundary of the range, including the expansion of the range via the acquisition of four ground gunnery ranges in 1942, while the Mexican border formed the southern boundary.

b. During the war years, the main objective of the range was to allow prospective pilots to gain proficiency in air-to-air and air-to-ground gunnery. Following WWII, the Yuma Aerial Gunnery Range was added to the existing Ajo-Gila Bend. Both ranges were inactive until 1951. The combined ranges came to be known as the Luke Air Force Range.

c. Between 1946 and 1956, select tracts of land along the northern boundaries of the former Yuma Aerial Gunnery Range were disposed of in a piecemeal fashion. The total acreage of the disposed land comprising Luke Air Force Range/D/ totaled 127,122.88 acres.

d. Between 1942 and 1944, the Yuma Aerial Gunnery Range was used for air-to-air gunnery training, involving AT-6 single engine planes and T-17 two engine planes. The entire range was comprised of 27 tow target ranges laid out in an east-west direction. According to maps of the Yuma Aerial gunnery Range, none of the tow targets was located on Luke Air Force Range/D/.

e. During the same time frame, four ground gunnery ranges were established and were a part of Luke Air Force Range/D/. In addition to the tow target and ground gunnery ranges, Yuma Auxiliary Landing Field No.1 and portions of the Yuma Army Air Field Moving Target Range also were situated on Luke Air Force Range/D/. Both facilities were instrumental parts of the initial

gunnery training provided to students prior to air-to-air and air-to-ground gunnery training. The only ammunition known to have been used on the moving target range was .30 and .50 caliber machine gun rounds.

f. Investigation of historical records revealed no evidence of CWM activity on Luke Air Force Range/D/.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area:	Size, Acres:	127,122.88
	Former Usage:	Gunnery Range
	Present Usage:	Residential Subdivision, minor agricultural growth
	Future Usage:	Same as Above
	Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
	Type:	Small Arms (.22 - .50 caliber)

6. CURRENT STATUS:

The Archives Search Report for Luke Air Force Range/D/ was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1996.

7. STRATEGY: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

a. The TAG recommends NOFA for this entire site since the only confirmed ordnance located on this site was small arms and, due to the huge size of this site, realistic sweeps of the area would be impossible. Many of the personal interviews dealt with the Yuma Test Branch Site and not with this FUDS. There are no photos of this site in the ASR.

b. There are known Federally-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species or natural communities.

9. SCHEDULED SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: N/A